

PLANNING & ECONOMIC REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held in the Large Hall of the Town Hall, Calne on Monday 18 December 2006

PRESENT: Councillor C J Viner – Town Mayor – Ex Officio
Councillor R Golding - **Chair**
Councillor P R Atkinson – **Vice-Chair**
Councillor Mrs M J Baggs
Councillor T A Briggs
Councillor Ms H E Canfer
Councillor P Dolman
Councillor J Ireland
Councillor A J Trotman

OFFICERS: Mrs L Roberts – Deputy Town Clerk
Mrs A Cawkwell – Committee Clerk

51/06 APOLOGIES

Councillor A J Trotman had advised that he may be late.

Councillor A Trotman joined the meeting.

52/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

53/06 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Committee held on Monday 16 October 2006, having previously been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

54/06 HIGHWAY MATTERS

There was nothing to report from the Area Highway Engineer.

Members made the following comments:

- Various pot holes around the town had been reported and had not yet been repaired.
- Councillor Trotman had received a letter from Wilts County Council concerning the opening up of the High Street, and it seemed that WCC officers were against this particular way of dealing with the 20 mph zone. This letter was given to Councillor Atkinson who is dealing with this idea and it was suggested that WCC officers should be invited to a meeting to explain the reasons behind their view.

- Something definitely needed to be done in this area as it gets so congested around school times.
- The WCC officers who attended the Traffic Calming Working Group meeting, when the proposition of opening up the High Street was discussed, were in agreement that this was a feasible option. It seemed strange at the change in opinion and it was felt necessary that WCC officers should be invited to the next Traffic Calming Working Group meeting to explain.
- The Town Mayor ventured into Devizes to find out why people from Calne are preferring this option to the Town Centre and found traffic backed up from Devizes Town Centre to Hopton Barracks. So congestion in Devizes was a lot worse than Calne.
- The opening up of the High Street will be for the good of the town people and no reason could be seen as to why this could not happen.
- Funding was part of the problem with this proposal as WCC part funded the closure of the High Street.
- The suggestion of opening up vehicular access behind the library is also not favoured as the access would be onto the A4. The Committee could reply to this letter through the Town Clerk.
- It was thought that due to the funding problem the opening up of the High Street idea would not come to fruition.
- The traffic congestion is as bad as it was before the bypass.
- More housing and people in the town have caused the population to double in the last 15 years.
- Councillor Atkinson had suggested to WCC that it would be nice to include Mrs Hodgson in the opening of the pedestrian crossing at Curzon Street, this was not done and the reasons were read out from a letter of reply from WCC to Councillor Atkinson.

At 6.10 pm Councillor T A Briggs joined the meeting.

55/06 EARMARKED RESERVES

The Earmarked Reserves were noted together with the Capital Receipt allocations for this Committee.

Councillor Ireland requested an update on the situation with the Skatepark. The Deputy Town Clerk informed that the concrete had been enhanced and consultations would take place next year for additional equipment.

In answer to a question from Councillor Trotman, the Deputy Town Clerk informed that funding had already been earmarked for Street Signage and no completion date had been given.

56/06 DIGITAL TELEVISION

The Community Development Officer's report, which is attached to and forms part of these Minutes, was discussed by members and the following points were raised:

- Should try to bring the 2010 date forward. There are deprived areas in the town and it would be good to see and receive TV through analogue aerials. Most already have access to freeview. Should write and ask them.
- Councillor Trotman had received a letter and information from a Calne resident concerning this issue, it contained useful information and was handed to the Deputy Town Clerk.
- Up to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the town already receive freeview and if enough support is gained it may be possible to bring the date of the Calne transmitter upgrade forward.
- It costs £1,300 to activate.
- Petition should be raised to put this into action, together with advertising to gain support from the public.

It was proposed by Councillor Ireland, seconded by the Town Mayor, Councillor C J Viner and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to pursue all options to bring the date of the Calne transmitter upgrade forward.

57/06 NWDC TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT FUNDING

The Community Development Officer's report, which is attached to and forms part of these Minutes, was discussed and the following issues were raised by members:

- The District Council needs to make savings. The items in the report amount to £5,000, however, the £8,000 contribution to the Information Centre could also be withdrawn.
- Need to write in the strongest form to retain the services currently provided by them.

It was proposed by the Chair, Councillor Golding, seconded by Councillor Atkinson and

UNANIMOUSLY PROPOSED to write a letter from the Town Council explaining the disappointment in the withdrawal of funding and the lack of consultation with the Town Council on this project.

This letter should be copied to the Chief Executive at NWDC.

58/06 CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS & ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005

The following Councillors volunteered to attend the briefing session on Tuesday 27 February 2007: Councillor Ireland, Councillor Trotman and Councillor Dolman.

59/06 PAVEMENTS IN THE HIGH STREET

The Deputy Town Clerk informed members that she had written to the District Council concerning this issue of public safety and stated that this needed to be investigated.

The following points were raised:

- In some licensing laws there is an agreement to clean up customers' mess outside of the premises. The owners should be contacted to see what can be done.
- Removing seats would not solve the problem this will just move the problem to somewhere else.

The Deputy Town Clerk informed that the letter to NWDC had suggested that cleaning up the immediate vicinity outside of the premises should be included in the Tenants Agreement.

It was proposed by Councillor Atkinson, seconded by the Town Mayor, Councillor Viner, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to write to the proprietors of the Charcoal Grill and request, as a gesture of goodwill, they clear away litter caused by their takeaway containers and discarded food. The situation to be monitored for possible further action/intervention.

60/06 LICKHILL ROAD/NORTH STREET PAVEMENTS

Councillor Atkinson stated that plans had been drawn up and requested members' views as to whether to continue with this idea. The following points were raised:

- It was felt that formal consultation with residents was required as some would be upset as they would lose their parking area. Lickhill Road was like Dixon Way and provided its own traffic calming from the parked cars along the side of the road.
- The majority of people want something to be done, there has been one fatality already, the pavements are in a dreadful condition and there is a need to prevent further accidents.
- A petition had already been handed in by the people of Calne concerning the poor state of footpaths from Lickhill Road to the Town Centre.
- The traffic calming idea is completely different and separate to the pavement proposal.

It was proposed by Councillor Atkinson, seconded by Councillor Ireland and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to spend officer time to send each resident in the affected area a letter and drawings of the proposed widened pavements on one side of the road to see the response received.

It was proposed by Councillor Atkinson, seconded by Councillor Ireland and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to allocate up to £250 from the Traffic Calming budget for this resident consultation process.

61/06 ITEM FOR INFORMATION

61.1 *Puffin Crossing – Curzon Street* – The E-Mail was noted.

61.2 *Key Bus Route Network Improvements in Calne*

National Express would be including four separate services from Bristol to London via Calne.

61.3 *Resignation of Your Parish Steward*

Interviews had taken place and it was thought that the service provided to Calne should not be affected.

The meeting closed at 6.52 pm.